

Since 2011 the START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Respite Treatment) program has been working to support adults with intellectual disability and/or developmental disability, as well as mental health conditions or challenging behaviors that are negatively affecting their quality of life. As of January 9, 2014, the Department of Behavioral Health the Developmental Services (DBHDS) crisis services START program will be known as REACH. REACH (or Regional Educational Assessment Crisis Response and Habilitation) will provide regional flexibility and continue to build upon the key tenets of the START model in place, allowing Virginia to maintain a statewide coordinated developmental disabilities crisis system. Please see *Developmental Disabilities Crisis Response System/My Life, My Community* document.

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Center for START Services is providing technical assistances to DBHDS to design standards and measures for the Virginia-designed program. While Virginia will not be implementing the total START model, REACH will continue to be an evidence-based driven program. UNH will be providing some training to the regions throughout the remainder of its contract which ends June 30, 2014.

As we move forward, DBHDS and the regional programs will continue to implement key elements of the START model which will be incorporated into REACH. The five regional programs will continue to meet the expectations as spelled out in the 2012 Settlement Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Department of Justice, and deliver the outcomes of providing crisis intervention, behavioral assessments and crisis prevention as required through their contractual agreements with DBHDS.

We believe the rebranding of the START program to REACH will give us the ability to manage an effective statewide crisis system for individuals and families in urgent need of services.